



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 80TH SESSION
FIRST COMMITTEE**

GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

David Riley

Ambassador and UK Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament
New York, 10 October 2025

Chair,

On January 24, we will mark 80 years since the first ever UNGA Resolution was adopted. Resolution 1(I), adopted in the Methodist Central Hall in London, established the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission to address the issues raised by atomic energy – issues that remain at the heart of our debate today. We join those celebrating this remarkable institution's proud 80 years, and all it has achieved.

We also mark a more difficult anniversary this week. Two years since the horrific acts by Hamas. The UK welcomes the news that a deal has been reached on President Trump's peace plan for Gaza. We are grateful for the tireless diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States. We call on all parties to meet the commitments they have made, to end the war, and to build the foundations for a just and lasting end to the conflict and a sustainable path to a long-term peace.

Chair,

As the UK's Deputy Prime Minister said last month, as we reaffirm our historic commitment to the United Nations, so too must we **face the challenges of the present, and in particular the threats to the arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament enterprise.**

Russia continues to wage war against Ukraine. This last weekend, Russia fired more than 50 missiles and an estimated 500 drones at targets across Ukraine, resulting in yet more civilian casualties. Last month, we witnessed an egregious violation of Polish and NATO airspace by Russian drones.

Russia's illegal invasion of **Ukraine** must end. We must stand together in defence of the core values of the UN Charter: sovereignty, territorial integrity and the respect for international law. Our message to Ukraine is clear. We will stand with you for as long as it takes.

The E3 triggered the snapback mechanism on 28 August 2025, because of **Iran's persistent and significant non-performance of its JCPoA commitments**. We urge Iran and all states to abide fully by the UNSC resolutions reinstated on 27 September. We will continue to work with all parties towards a new diplomatic solution to ensure Iran never gets a nuclear weapon.

The **DPRK** continues its unlawful pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, conducting multiple missile tests, putting neighbouring countries at risk and supplying weapons and troops to support Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Mr Chair,

This is the reality of the challenges we face today. We are witnessing more conflicts across the globe than we have seen since the end of the second world war.

Russia's actions undermine the institutions and values that we have collectively worked for 80 years to build and preserve. Iran and DPRK continue to defy the global non-proliferation regime.

This is why we must re-double our efforts to defend and strengthen the international arms control framework.

When we work together, when we listen, when we identify shared interest and common ground, we can make progress.

Over the past 12 months:

- the Group of Government Experts on **LAWS** has continued to advance its rolling text, driving further convergence on a set of elements of a possible future instrument.
- The open-ended working group on **PAROS** in all its aspects started to work on substance. Its inclusive format and extended timeline offer a real opportunity to build convergence.
- The **Arms Trade Treaty** – a core part of our collective effort to combat terrorism and crime, and reduce human suffering, agreed to develop a 5-year strategy aimed at strengthening implementation.

The UK was pleased to have played our part in delivering these steps forward. We thank Ambassadors *in den Bosch* and *Foradori* for their continued leadership and we urge all UN Member States to build on this momentum.

Mr Chair,

The First Committee is a vital part of the international arms control and disarmament architecture.

In the context of UN80, we must reflect honestly on the need to improve the Committee's work and to deliver greater efficiencies.

As we embark on this year's session, let us engage in our work in a spirit of renewal. Let us embrace the opportunity to bring greater effectiveness, efficiency and coherence in the delivery of our objectives of peace and security.

Thank you.